

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-32, 34-36, 38, 41 and 42 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 32 and 38 have been amended as indicated on pages 2-7 of the Reply.

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Tsui for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interviews conducted on April 20, 2007. Examiner was contacted to discuss the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Specifically, interpretation of the newly cited reference Birman *et al.* (U.S. 6,616,704) was discussed with respect to independent claims 1, 32, and 38. Examiner indicated that claim 32 is allowable and that incorporating the limitation "*employing a Viterbi search to facilitate in determining the optimum set of alternative spellings according to the context model in each iteration; the Viterbi search can employ fringes to restrict a search for alternative spellings in an iteration such that for every pair of adjacent substrings, if any of the substrings is in at least one trusted lexicon, then only one of the substrings is allowed to change in that iteration*" into independent claims 1, and 38 would place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 38 have been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 32. Claim 32 has been amended to remove unnecessary limitations.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is believed the application is in condition for allowance - a prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP585US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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